Now, these was a request from Shri Ramachandra Khuntia to raise an issue. He is not present in the House. So, we are not taking up that issue.

Now, the Minister will replay to the Short Duration Discussion. मंत्री जी, कल आपकी तबियत ठीक नहीं थी।

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Madam, I have recovered.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You were not well yesterday.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Yesterday, the drought affected everybody. I was also affected by the weather yesterday!

THE DEPTY CHAIRMAN: The House is affected by the drought! ...*(Interruptions)*... Lalooji has come. लालू जी आ गए हैं।

श्री लालू प्रसाद : आपने कहा बाहर, तो बात बाहर भी चलेगी और भीतर भी चलेगी।

उपसभापति : नहीं, भीतर नहीं चलेगी। थोड़ी आपको हमारी बात भी माननी पड़ेगी।

Short Duration Discussion On Drought Situation In Various Parts Of The Country—(Contd.)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): Madam Deputy Chairperson, yesterday, this august House discussed the drought situation prevailng in various parts of the country. Many members expressed their concern and anguish about the situation in their States. I am sorry, I was not present in the House yesterday, but my esteemed colleague, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav, was present. Madam, I am fully cognisant of ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभापति : प्लीज, अभी इतना महत्वपूर्ण डिसकशन ड्राउट पर हुआ। आप सब लोग इसमें इतने चिंतित हुए कि देश में ड्राउट है, लोग भुखमरी से मर रहे हैं। और अब मंत्री जी जवाब दे रहे हैं, उनको तो ध्यान से सुन लीजिए। ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJJE: Just one second ...*(Interruptions)*.... Madam, we were told in the morning that the

Cabinet Minister was sick, and that his Deputy would reply. In fact, a letter was sent to the hon. Chairman. It was mentioned in that letter. Of course, it is good that he has recovered. He is going to reply and we will listen to him. But it is not our fault. It is because that we wanted to protest over a certain issue that we staged a walk-out. The understanding we had in the morning was...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But somebody was to reply. That is why I am asking everybody to sit down, and let him reply.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: It was a very serious issue. We were disturbed over very serious issue. Someone has to understand our sentiments also. The issue is over which we walked out. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you going to argue with me or are you going to listen? If you are going to argue, I have no argument with you.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: I have expressed my sentiments. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What sentiments? About what?

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Our feelings should also be appreciated. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Appreciated by whom? *(Interruptions)*. I do not understand what are you getting agitated about. You wanted a reply and the reply is there. Did I name you?

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: I cannot express in that refined language which is understandable to all, it is my failing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Did I name you, that you are doing something?

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: I am not talking about myself. Why should I talk about individuals? *(Interrutpions)*.

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी, आप जवाब दीजिए। आप लोग जरा खामोश रहें।

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Madam, Chairperson, Mr. Mukherjee is right that I had written to the Chairman yesterday that I was not well, and

that the Minister of State would reply to the debate. But, in view of the seriousness of the drought and, as I said, the anguish expressed by many Members on the situation in their areas in their States, I thought that it would be wise for me to come and personaly try to answer the questions they have raised on how the drought can be mitigated. I am sure that everybody is aware about the seriousness of the situation. But I would again like to mention some facts. According to the latest reports, the rain shortfall was about 20% in the country. If you go by statistics, we have had occasions earlier when the rainfall has been much more than this 20%. In 1987, the deficiency was 24%; in 1972, the deficiency was 30%. But, in Government's view this year's droughts is more serious, because statistics does not reflect the real situation. What is more important, from agriculture point of view, is: when it rained, where it rained and for how long it rained. July this year was the driest ever since statistics have been kept. Since 1875, in the last 125 years, July this year has been the driest; and for agricutlure, July rains are most important. The Government recognises that this year's drought has created a very serious situation. I would like to reiterate that out of 900 hectares, in about 160 heactars, there has been about 50% crop damage and in about 20% area sowing could not be done at all. And the impact of drought is much more than other calamities, in the sense that if there are floods or cyclones, they do create lot of problems but drought's effects linger much longer. It changes the soil situation; it lowers the water table in many areas and it may even affect the next crop. The Health of the children is also affected. For example, in Rajasthan, more milk is available now. That does not mean that the situation is better there. It only means that the farmers have become so poor that they do not allow their children to drink milk, they give it for selling because that is the only way they are going to get some income. so, the drought has, as I said, a long-range impact. It is a long-time impact on agriculture, than other natural calamities. Therefore, the Government is fully aware of it and I am sure, the honourable Members are also fully aware of it. I would also like to reassure the hon. Members that the Government has no intention to discriminate any State and has not shown, in any way, any discrimination against any State. As regards providing relief from the Calamity Relief Fund or from the National Calamity

Contigency Fund, the guidelines have been laid down by the Eleventh Finance Commission. The procedure has also been laid down by the Eleventh Finance Commission. The procedure is that States submit a memorandum and a Central Team is sent from here to assess the damages. Then, it will be considered by an inter-Ministerial Group headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and after that it will be considered by a high-level Task Force headed by the Deputy Prime Minister. On the basis of the recommendations made by the inter-Ministerial Group, certain decisions were taken at the high-level Task Force meeting on 16th November. I would like to say that we have accepted the recommendations of the high-level Task Force in *toto*. There is no question of any political discrimination in this case.

I am also aware that many States have made very large demands. In fact, the drought-affected States have demanded a relief of Rs. 31,000 crores. The problem is that many of the demands do not really relate to the drought. They do not fall within the guidelines set by the Eleventh Finance Commission with the Concurrence of the States. They are related to long-term problems like irrigation, infrastructure, etc., and therefore, they are not admissible under the drought relief.

Again, to reiterate the seriousness of the drought situation, I would like to say that the State which is worst affected is Rajasthan. About 75 per cent of the crop has been damaged in Rajasthan. The percentage of crop damage in respect of Madhya Pradesh is 53 per cent; in respect of Haryana, it is 48 per cent; in respect of Orissa, it is 39 per cent; and in respect of Uttar Pradesh, it is 33 per cent. Overall the production of oilseeds has gone down by 25 per cent; the production of rice has gone down by 16%; and the production of coarse grains has gone down by 28%. So, the situation is very serious. I would also like to state that Rajasthan is very seriously affected and the hon. Members from Rajasthan had raised certain questions as to how much foodgrains have been allotted and what else has been done. I would like to say that in the case of Rajasthan free transportation of fodder and water has been allowed by the Railways and that facility has been extended up to 30th June. Rajasthan has been given 34,000 tonnes of cattle feed, free of cost, and free transportation. More than 430 cattle camps with more than

one-and-a-half lakh animals have been provided an assistance of Rs. 9 crores. As I said, animal wealth is the main wealth of Rajasthan. The NDDB is procuring two lakh litres of milk per day and one-and-a-half kilograms of milk powder from Rajasthan. The NDDB has also agreed to review the rice in November—December—when, normally, the price of milk is reduced—whether it should be reduced or maintained at the same level in view of the drought. So, we are aware of the Rajasthan situation. Overall, the Task Force has allotted Rs. 2,000 crores from the CRF and the NCCF and this relief is only up to January end. This is for three months. This is not end of it. If more reports come, if we receive more memoranda, we will certainly look into them.

As far as the request of Rajasthan for foodgrains is concerned, on the other day, during Question Hour, my colleague, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav, informed the House that five lakh tonnes of wheat was allotted on 16th November; and, as far as Orissa is concerned, one Lakh tonnes of rice was allotted. No other State has formally requested for allotment of more foodgrains in the coming months. I understand, Madhya Pradesh is in the process of doing that. I could see Shri Suresh Pachouri talking about that.

I would also like to mention one more thing. Many of the States have not spent the funds provided by the Eleventh Finance Commission from the Calamity Relief Fund. In many cases, the problem is of not completing the procedure, getting the utilization certificate and complying with the CAG's requirements so that more money can be given. Therefore, I would request all the Members of the House and we are also writing to the States to make sure that all those compliances, legal compliances are there, before we say that you have exhausted your Calamity Relief Fund and money can be given from the national Calamity Contingency Fund. Some people did express the opinion that the corpus of the NCCF is only Rs. 500 crores, it should be raised of Rs. 10,000 crores. In fact, there is no corpus for the NCCF. When the Eleventh Finance Commission recommended that there should be money in that fund, the Budgetary allocation of Rs. 500 crores was made, but it is very clear, and I would also like to assure the House that three is no limit on the funds in the NCCF. The Eleventh Finance Commission itself has

said that more money can be raised, if needed; and, out of this Rs. 2000 crores which you have been allotted, it will require more than Rs 500 crores from the NCCF already. So, there is no question of having any limit in the NCCF. Whatever is needed, whatever reports we get, we will try to give more.

In the Lok Sabha debate on this issue, the Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sonia Gandhi very graciously mentioned that it is not a partisan issue and no politics should be done. It should be a co-operative venture. Fighting the drought should be a co-operative venture between the State Government and the Central Government.

श्री लालू प्रसाद (बिहार) : बिहार में फ्लड का भी था, आप उस पर नहीं बोल रहे हैं।

SHRI AJIT SINGH: For floods in Assam and Bihar, Rs. 237 crores have been allotted in this meeting, on the 16th and, in due time, I am sure you will be informed and your Government will also be informed.

All I was saying this is a national calamity. Although, there is no provision in the Constitution to declare a national calamity, but we all realize that it is a national calamity. It is very serious situation and many hon. Members of the House have expressed views, not only about this drought, but also regarding what we are going to do in the future. Obviously, we all recognize that the Public Distribution System is collapsing in a way. It is not effective anymore. In many areas of many State and, particularly, in tribal areas, it never reached. It never reached in many tribal areas.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Kerala) : Why is it not reaching?

SHRI AJIT SINGH : I will come to that. Madam, reports of starvation deaths and all that are appearing regularly in the national news papers and on electronic media. Whether there are starvation deaths or not is debatable. But the fact remains that many people are under-nourished, mal-nourished. Mal-nutrition is there and that is leading to these kind of problems. Another issue which has been raised by some Members of the House is regarding the water situation. This drought has focused situation on water, but the fact remains that this problems is going to be with us for a long time. In our view,

water has to be considered as a national resource. Unless it is considered as a national resource, the disputes amongst states like we have seen between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and between Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan would not be resolved. So, we have to consider water as a national resource. Many people ask why the irrigated areas are only forty per cent and why irrigation is not more widespread. I would like to say that there can be more areas irrigated. But let us also remember that even in the irrigated areas, the only available source of water is the monsoon. Unless, we make dams, big and small dams, unless we think of stopping that water and using it, so that it does not run off after the monsoon, this problem can not be solved. The monsoon lasts for two to three moths only. So, we have to make big and small dams. We also have to consider our traditional methods of water conservation like tanks, *johars* and *talabs* and which as all of us know is many areas they have all been taken over and houses have been constructed in the rural areas also. We have to consider both these things. As the Prime Minister had announced in the Lok Sabha, a scheme of linking rivers is under the activities consideration of the Government. We will look into it. Money will not be a hindrance in implementing that plan, if that can be done technically.

I come back to the PDS and other things. Let me make one thing very clear. The Central Government can only have schemes and can give money. The Central Government has no implementing agency. We do not have *patwaris;* we do not have SDMs and we do not have District Collectors under our control. We have no implementing agency and monitoring agency. After all, they are democratically elected Governments. We can give them money. We can give them assistance. We can tell them what to do. But it is their right to decide how they should use that money and how effectively they should spend that money. Therefore, if you say that the Central Government should be held responsible if food is not distributed properly or if the money intended does not reach the people for whom it is intended. I don't think in our federal system that is the right way of putting things.

Many hon. Members wanted that the elected representatives should be associated with the drought relief work. This demand was

raised in July also when this issue was being discussed. Madam, I did write to all the Chief Ministers that all the elected representatives should be included in a Committee for monitoring the drought relief work. But not many States have done that. I also wrote to all the Chief Minister that the money which we are giving for seeds and fertilizers under the NCCF should be deposited directly into the accounts of the affected people, rather than being given in kind because that would mean a lot of leakage. But not many Chief Ministers have responded to it. So, all I want to say is that the Government has no intention of doing any politics on this issue. I would request the State Governments to look into it. They should provide us proper certificates. They should also provide us proper reports about the money spent so that we can give them more money from the NCCF.

So far as Harayana is concerned, I did mention it here and also in the Lok Sabha that I went to Haryana on 5th September and made a statement that no memorandum had been received. That is statement of fact. There is no intention to cast aspersions on any Government. The Memorandum which we have received is of 5th September. If on 5th September I had said in Haryana that no memorandum had been received, it was a statement of fact. I would also like to mention that Haryana has got Rs. 200 crores in its Calamity Relief Fund which is more than two years fund. They have not used this amount at all. Before saying that more money is needed, you first use the money which you have. We know the seriousness of the situation. We are here to help you. As I said, this money is only for three months, until the end of January. We all know that in Rajasthan the Rabi crop has already been affected. There is only 45 per cent showing of Rabi crop. If it does not rain in November, the drought would easily extend to June. There is a very big fodder problem also. Unfortunately, this fodder problem is there in the neighbouring States also. We have discussed this issue with the Railway Minister. He said, "If the Rajasthan Government wants sugarcane to be used as fodder from any other State, we are prepared to give full subsidy." Even if they want a subsidy of Rs. 20/- or Rs. 30/- per quintal, the Railways are prepared to bear that cost. As I said, we are aware that Rajasthan's main wealth is the animal wealth. There is free transportation of fodder and water. We have

given additional money to Rajasthan. I can understand the concern of the hon. Members. How should drought be fought? Everybody is concerned about it. We have to consider water as a national resource. We are trying to find out as to which are the corps which could be grown in drought-prone areas. Research is already going on in this regard. My old friend, Mr. Yadav, yesterday raised some question about coarse gains. The problem is that nobody wants to eat coarse grains. Even the people, who raise coarse grains, don't eat them. Everybody wants to eat whet and rice. There was a time in Haryana, western U.P., wheat it was all maize and millet and all that, but now people do not want to raise those crops.

श्री लालू प्रसाद : जितना सड़ा हुआ गेहूं बाहर का लिया हुआ है जिसमें जटा बनी हुई है और जो प्वाइजन्स है, पंजाब के गोदामों से ऐसा गेहूं लाकर वहां भेजा जाता है और उसे कोई लेना नहीं चाहता है। उससे बेहतर गेहूं मार्किट में मिल रहा है। सारा गेहूं आपने चूहों को खिलवा दिया, सारा गेहूं सड़ा दिया। कहां से गेहूं लिया, क्या किया... **(व्यवधान)**...

एक माननीय सदस्य : सड़ा हुआ था तो चूहे कैसे खा गये?..**(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : There is a provision for joint inspection by the State by the F.C.I. Only when the State agrees, after an inspection, it is allowed to take that lot of foodgrains. Then, it is allotted to the State.

श्री लालू प्रसाद : मुज्जफरपुर से एक ट्रेन लौटा दी।...**(व्यवधान)**...जनता को मरवा रहे हैं। सड़ा हुआ सामान आप लोग भिजवाते हैं।

SHRI AJIT SINGH : There may be individual cases, yes.

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री शरद यादव) : महोदया, लालू जी ने जो अभी कहा है उसके संबंध में मैं बताना चाहता हूं।

उपसभापति : यह आपका डिपार्टमेंट है।

श्री शरद यादव : मैं थोड़ा सा इस संबंध में बताना चाहता हूं कि एक नियम बना हुआ है। जब तक स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को जो क्वालिटी कंट्रोल ऑफिसर होता है, वह दस्तखत नहीं करता है, तब तक फूडग्रेन नहीं उठाया जाता है।

श्री मूल चंद मीणा (राजस्थान) : तभी तो आप आरोप लगाते हैं कि लोग उठाते नहीं हैं।

श्री लालू प्रसाद : आपको सही बात कोई बताता नहीं है। बात यह है कि जो गेहूं प्वाइजन्स हो गया, वह गेहूं आप भिजवा रहे हैं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No cross-talk please.

डा॰ अबरार अहमद (राजस्थान) : जो एफ.सी.आई. का गेहूं है, बाजार में उससे सस्ता गेहूं मिल रहा है तो आप सड़ा हुआ गेहूं क्यों भिजवाते हैं? फिर आप कहते हैं कि राजस्थान सरकार गेहूं नहीं उठाती।

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN : You have to reduce the issue price. (*Interruptions*)

श्री शरद यादव : मैं आपके माध्यम से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यह इंतजाम बना हुआ है। किसी इलाके में भी खराब वाला फूडग्रेन है, जो लस्टर लॉस्ट वाला फूडग्रेन था, उसको भी आकर मैंने बंद किया। एस.जी.आर.वाई. में जाता था, बिलो पॉवर्टी लाइन वाला जो पी.डी.एस. में जाता था, सारे गेहूं को बंद करने का काम हमने किया। उसमें क्या होता था कि लस्टर लॉस्ट हो जाता था, उसको भी हमने बंद किया है। इसलिए जानकारी इन लोगों को नहीं, आप मुझे सीधी जानकारी दें। यदि कहीं भी खराब गेहूं होगा, मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि देश में पर्याप्त अन्न भंडार है और अनाज में कोई क्वालिटी कहीं भी खराब होगी तो मैं आपको सदन में आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूं कि इसको तत्काल लिया जाएगा, जैसा भी चाहेंगे, वह किया जाएगा।

उपसभापति : लालू जी ने अभी आपको जिस बारे में बताया है कि उन्होंने अनाज वापिस किया। आप उसके बारे में बता दें।

श्री शरद यादव : यह यहां बता रहे हैं। यदि पहले बताते तो मैं उनकी बात पर कुछ ऐक्शन लेता।

उपसभापति : हाउस में नहीं पूछेंगे तो कहां पूछेंगे।

श्री शरद यादव : महोदया, मैं केवल इन्हें नहीं बल्कि पूरे सदन से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं, 150 लाख टन तो हमने ऐक्सपोर्ट किया है, हमारे पास इतना पर्याप्त भंडार है. ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा : आपके पास कितना भंडार है, वह सवाल नहीं है। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Don't make it an issue. Just one minute please. मंत्री जी, लालू जी ने एक सवाल हाउस में उठाया था। उन्होंने ऐक्जाम्पल भी दिया कि कहां खराब गेहूं आया, सड़ा हुआ आया और उन्होंने वापिस कर दिया। अगर ऐसा हुआ है तो आप उसको देख लीजिए।

श्री शरद यादव : मैं केवल इनकी बात नहीं कर रहा। मैं पूरे सदन को और पूरे राज्यों को आपके माध्यम से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि हमारे पास अनाज का पर्याप्त भंडार है। ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभापति : पूरा कर लेने दीजिए।

श्री शरद यादव : उसमें किसी भी तरह की कोई कमी होगी तो क्वालिटी कंट्रोल के दोनों अफसर होते हैं। उस क्वालिटी कंट्रोल के मामले में अगर कहीं और घपला हुआ है, कोई दिक्कत हुई है तो सदन को आपके माध्यम से आश्वस्त करता हूं कि उसको दुरुस्त करने का काम किया जाएगा। क्वालिटी के मामले में कोई कंप्रोमाइज नहीं होगा।

श्री लालू प्रसाद : देश भर में चाहे पंजाब हो या एफ.सी.आई. के जितने देश भर में गोदाम हों, चिमचिमी से, पॉलीथिन से ढककर घपला करके बाहर से जो गेहूं लिया गया था, ...(व्यवधान)... यह हंसने की बात नहीं है, सारे देश में ऐसा हो रहा है। अब किसान जो बम्पर खेती करता है चाहे पंजाब का हो या बिहार का हो, यही कारण है कि यह तर्क दे रहे हैं कि हमारे पास जगह नहीं हैं हमारे पास अन्न का भंडार है। कभी बोलते हैं कि अनाज उठाने वाला कोई नहीं है। यह सारा अनाज बाहर का लिया हुआ गोदाम पैक्ड है। चीनी का उठाव भी नहीं हो रहा है, चीनी बाहर से आ रही है। यहां सारा गेहूं सड़ा हुआ हैं और ऐसा बना हुआ है जैसे हम तिलकुट खाते हैं गया का, ऐसा बना हुआ है यह गेहूं। तो क्या हर राज्य में सरकार की ओर से परचेज करके किसानों का धान और गेहूं वहीं पर देने का प्रबंध करेंगे? यहां से वहां, यहां से वहां ले जाने में कैरिज का चार्ज लगता है। आप पंजाब की जनता को पंजाब से लेकर सीधा दे दीजिए, बिहार के किसानों का गेहूं, चावल खरीद कर वहीं दे दीजिए। अगर यह व्यवस्था करने की जिम्मेदारी आप लेते हैं तो मैं समझता हूं कि हर राज्य के किसान का सामान भी बिकेगा और जो आपने गेहूं सड़ा रखा है, वह एक्सपोर्ट कर दीजिए। जहां से लाए हैं वहीं भेज दीजिए, आपका जहरीला अनाज कोई खाएगा क्या?

उपसभापति : डा॰ मनमोहन सिंह, आप कुछ कह रहे हैं क्या?

THE LEADER OF OPPOSITION DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: I have two questions to put after the Minister has finished his reply.

श्री अजीत सिंह : देखिए, अभी लालू साहब ने जो सवाल उठाए हैं और बहुत से लोगों ने जो सवाल उठाए हैं, उसका ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री लालू प्रसाद : साहब कह रहे हैं? हम तो आपके भाई हैं।

श्री अजीत सिंह : मैंने तो शुरू में ही आपको कहा, मेरे पुराने मित्र।

श्री लालू प्रसाद : आपने साहब कहा।

श्री अजीत सिंह : लालू जी... लालू भाई।

उपसभापति : हाउस में भाई नहीं चलता।

श्री अजीत सिंह : बिलकुल चलता है, क्यों नहीं चलता,? लालू भाई हैं।

उपसभापति : रिश्तेदारी नहीं है यहां।

श्री अजीत सिंह : अंदर भी चलता है और बाहर भी चलता है।

उपसभापति : चलिए बोलिए।

श्री अजीत सिंह : लालू जी ने अभी जो सवाल उठाया है, वह महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है क्योंकि जब हम ड्राउट पर बहस कर रहे हैं तो किसानों से जुड़े हुए बहुत से मुद्दे उठाए गए हैं। यह भी एक मुद्दा उसमें है और शरद जी को भी मालूम है कि सरकार की डीसेंट्रलाइजेशन आफ प्रोक्योरमेंट की भी एक स्कीम है। अगर बिहार उसमें हिस्सा ले और उसका पैसा फिर भी केन्द्रीय सरकार ही देगी, तो बहुत सी समस्याओं का हल हो सकता है। मैं आखिर में यही कहना चाहूंगा कि जो अभी सेंटर से एन.सी.सी.एफ. की तरफ से मदद की जा रही है, वह 31 जनवरी तक है। अभी और खाद्यान्न की मांग नहीं आई है, अगर वह आएगी तो हम फिर मीटिंग करके उस पर विचार करेंगे और मैं आशा करता हूं कि इस बहस से खेती की समस्याओं के बारे में, ग्रामीण समस्याओं के बारे में, जो पी.डी.एस. की समस्या हो रही है, जो ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय कर रहा है और ग्रामीण विकास हो नहीं रहा है, इन सब समस्याओं के बारे में केन्द्रीय सरकार, प्रदेशीय सरकार और हम सब सोचेंगे और कोई ऐसा रास्ता निकालना पड़ेगा जो जितना पैसा खर्च हो रहा है, इसका फायदा जहां पहुंचना चाहिए, वहां नहीं पहुंच रहा है, वह कैसे पहुंच सके, धन्यवाद।

श्री लालू प्रसाद : आप डीसेंट्रलाइजर कर दीजिए, बहुत बड़ा काम हो जाएगा। नीतिश कुमार जी के यहां 1200 क्विंटल गेहूं होता है, कोई खरीदता नहीं है।

उपसभापति : लालू जी, लीडर ऑफ अपोजिशन खड़े हैं और बोलने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

श्री लालू प्रसाद : लालू जी कहां इसमें बाधक हैं महोदया? बार-बार लीडर ऑफ अपोजिशन...

उपसभापति : वे खड़े थे, आप देख नहीं रहे हैं।

श्री लालू प्रसाद : लीडर ऑफ अपोजिशन से आप हमारा झगड़ा कराना चाहती हैं मैडम?

उपसभापति : अब आपकी निगाह तो सिर्फ सत्ताधारियों पर रहती है।.... लालू जी, आपकी निगाह तो सिर्फ सत्ता पर रहती है। आपकी निगाह अपोजिशन पर भी रहनी चाहिए।

श्री लालू प्रसाद : हमारी निगाह तो आमने-सामने है, 90 डिग्री के कोण पर।

उपसभापति : थैंक यू।

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH : Madam, I have two questions to ask of the hon. Minister. It is true that when drought comes, it is an act of God, and we cannot help it. And we know that in this country, somewhere or the other, drought will strike. Madam, when I was Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, we embarked on a plan to divide our country into separate agro-climatic zones, and our intention was that we would work out, for each agro-climatic zone, cropping patterns which could be activated in case drought was anticipated. I would like to know from the hon. Minister: What is the status of work on these agro-climatic zones? And have you worked out, for each agro-climatic Zone, an alternative cropping strategy which can be activated when a drought comes? This is my first question. The second question, madam, is, today, it is agreed that in this country there is very substantial malnutrition among our children, among our women. But that is a wider question, according to the findings of the National Sample Survey, about 6 to 7 per cent of our people are still hungry, in the sense, that they do not get two square meals a day. Will the Government use this opportunity when we have such ample food stocks to work out a scheme that, at least, we can abolish this abject hunger from our country. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : They want to ask... *(Interruptions)*. Three Members have put questions *(Interruptions)*. No debate. No. *(Interruptions)* There are other Members who want to put questions. They want to give some information. Perhaps, it might help you. *(Interruptions)*

उपसभापति : रिप्लाई के बाद पूरा हाउस नहीं बोलेगा।

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Mr. Abrar Ahmed, spoke yesterday.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Did you speak yesterday?

DR. ABRAR AHMED: No, no, Madam.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Then, your party represented your views. Your colleague also spoke yesterday *(Interruptions)*.

डा० अबरार अहमद : मैडम, मैं एक महत्वपूर्ण बात पूछना चाह रहा हूं... (**व्यवधान**)... सूखे की स्थिति जो देश के अंदर भी उसके अंदर पूरा ध्यान देकर कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष सोनिया जी ने सबसे पहले initiative लिया और मुख्य मंत्रियों का एक शिष्टमंडल लेकर वे प्रधानमंत्री जी से मिलीं। सभी मुख्य मंत्रियों ने ज्ञापन भी दिए जिसका जिक्र माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी किया। टास्क-फोर्स गठित हुई, अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि 16 नवम्बर को दो हजार करोड़ रुपया टास्क फोर्स ने दिया। लेकिन मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि 16 नवम्बर से पहले कितनी टास्क फोर्स की मीटिंग हुई, जो अनिर्णित रही। हमारे राजस्थान के मुख्यमंत्री दिल्ली के अंदर घूमते रहे, इन सबके चक्कर काटते रहे। वहां जो स्थिति थी कि टास्क फोर्स की मीटिंग बुलाइए, उसमें निर्णय कीजिए। लेकिन वहां कोई निर्णय की स्थिति नहीं बनी। इसके अलावा माननीय मंत्री जी ने अभी कहा...

उपसभापति : आपने एक सवाल पूछने के लिए कहा था, मैंने भाषण की इजाजत नहीं दी थी। I am not allowing.

डा० अबरार अहमद : मैडम, जो 9 करोड़ रुपया माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा... (**व्यवधान**)... राजस्थान में हालत इतनी खराब है कि 9 करोड़ रुपए में तो वहां कुछ भी नहीं हो सकता। दस फीसदी पशुओं को भी वहां नहीं बचाया जा सकता। पीने के पानी का वहां जिक्र नहीं हुआ। राजस्थान का वाटर लेवल इतनी तेजी से नीचे जा रहा है मैडम, भूख से तो लोग नहीं मरे, लेकिन पीने के पानी से वहां लोग जरूर मर जाएंगे।... (**व्यवधान**)...

1.00 P.M.

श्री भारतेन्दु प्रकाश सिंहल (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैडम, यह क्वेश्चन है क्या? ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभापति : अबरार साहब अब आप बैठ जाइए।...(व्यवधान)... I know it is...(व्यवधान).. जस्ट a minute. *(Interruptions)* नहीं, यह कोई तरीका नहीं है। देखिए, मैं आपको बताउंगी कि कल जब सारा दिन डिसकसन हो रहा था तो हाउस में कई नहीं थे। इसके बारे में चेयरमैन साहब ने कमेंट भी किया था कि इतना महत्वपूर्ण डिसकसन है। यहां पर कोरम बैल दबाने की नौबत थी। अब मंत्री जी ने जवाब दे दिया है, लोग बोल चुके हैं। आप कह रहे हैं कि आपको... मनमोहन सिंह जी ने एक सवाल उठाया, महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है। उन्होंने अनुभव के तरीके पर यह बात पूछी है और समझी है। आप यह मामला पॉलिटिकल न बनाएं, let us think about the people who are dying. Let the Minister answer, if he can, at least on what Dr. Manmohan Singh has said. No, ...*(Interruptions)* बस बैठ जाइए।... (व्यवधान) Please no. Let him answer, *(Interruptions)* No clarification. It is not a statement. No... *(Interruptions)* I am not allowing. No. *(Interruptions)* one minute please. I can hear you very well. Let him answer. *(Interruptions)* Why you people only use one faculty of your face; not the ears? मंत्री जी आप बोलिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal) : Madam, is the Minister not expected to reply to the point raised in the course of the debate?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He is expected. I am asking him to do that. ओ.के., मंत्री जी बोलिए, जो मनमोहन सिंह जी ने कहा है

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Madam, this debate is about drought. If they have any specific question, written or oral, they can raise it in Question Hour, and it will be answered. But... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU : Madam, it is related to drought. *(Interruptions)*

उपसभापति : दस आदमी एक साथ बोलेंगे तो, I can't hear.

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा : क्वेश्चन का जवाब नहीं आया था चेयरमैन साहब ने कहा था कि जब जवाब आएगा तब इसे पूछ लीजिएगा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. Sit down.

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Madam, the hon. Leader of the Opposition has raised the question of different climatic zones. ICAR is looking into that. But, beyond that, the Ministry of Agriculture has now the macro Management Scheme, wherein schemes are proposed by each State. We give money. We have discontinued many of the earlier schemes. Most of the money is now under the Macro Management Scheme, wherein States, taking into consideration their agro-climatic zones, propose schemes, and in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, those schemes are approved. So, the earlier system of the Centre having schemes all over the country—unless those schemes have an all-India character—have been discontinued. Now, most of the States propose schemes, which relate to their agro-climatic zones, under the Macro Management Scheme. Even otherwise, so far as horticulture is concerned, we have a special commission for development of horticulture in the North-East. As I said, ICAR is also looking at the cropping pattern for different agro-climatic zones. *(Interruptions)* The second question... *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He is answering the second question. *(Interruptions)* Would you take your seats, please?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Madam, the Leader of the Opposition had raised another question, which was about malnutrition and under-nourishment. Again, the PDS was supposed to address that question. Then, we have the Mid-day Meal Scheme; we have the Antodaya Scheme, the food-for-Work Programme, and so on. All these schemes are really meant for the poor who do not have enough income to purchase foodgrains from the market; they also do not grow foodgrains. Again the implementation may be faulty; we are all worried about it. We should all look into it, why the benefits of these schemes are not reaching the poor.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, there were some questions relating to drought in the List of Questions today. Those questions can also be answered while you are replying, because they are related to drought or drought-related issues.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Madam, I will reply to whatever you allow.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I was saying this because those questions were not taken up and so, the replies to those questions didn't come. Those questions were not put during Question Hour. So, I will allow him. *(Interruptions)* Just one minute. *(Interruptions)* Please. One by one. You should not create a rumpus in the House. Please, only put your question to the Minister.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KERALA): Madam, in reply to Question No. 62 this morning. The written answer laid on the Table of the House, says, "Memoranda for assistance from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) have been received from the following 16 States. Central Teams have visited all the above States except Kerala. All the Teams have submitted their reports. In case of Kerala the State Government has been requested to furnish further information and clarifications".

Now, my question is this. Why did the Central Team not visit Kerala? Also, the hon. Prime Minister has announced a relief package of Rs. 10,000 crores for all the drought-affected States. Is this package applicable to Kerala also, because we have had less than 15 per cent rainfall; there has been a decline in the rainfall in Kerala? It has adversely affected our long-term cash crops like rubber, coconut, and so on. This has not been taken into consideration. Further, the Central Team has not visited Kerala. No relief package has been announced for Kerala. I would like to know the reasons for this. Also it is because of non-representation on the part of the State Government of Kerala? There has been an allegation that the State of Kerala has not been given this relief package because the State Government has not given the memorandum to the Government of India. Is it the reason for non-allocation of relief to Kerala? *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute. First things first. It is past one o'clock now. We adjourn at one. If the House so wants... *(interruptions)*

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Kerala) : Madam, ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one minute, please. You have no patience. I am asking the House whether we can sit till 1.30 p.m. Do you have any objection?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Okay, Well, I must tell you one thing. If you go in an orderly fashion, you will get the answer, because this is a serious matter. If everybody speaks at the same time, it becomes difficult. Now, we have got half-an-hour more. I am not allowing the whole of the half-an-hour to be taken by this discussion, because we have some Special Mentions. Then, we have a small Bill to be passed. So, please be brief. Do not make another speech in the House. What do you want to say? Did you speak on the debate?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: No, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your party did?

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Yes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, it must have been there. The entire House cannot speak. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Madam, I want to seek one clarification. *(Interruptions)* After the Minister has replied, we have a right to seek clarifications.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, there is no procedure; there is no rule for clarification. Please read the Rule Book. I will allow you, but it is not the practice. In this House, the practice is, Members seek clarifications on the *suo motu* statement of the Minister, not on reply; until and unless it is extremely important.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: I will take only one minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This what he too promised, but he could not.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Madam, the hon. Agriculture Minister is well aware of the plight of the farmers of Kerala.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Kerala is done. *(Interruptions)* Kerala is over.

Now, Mr. Kalraj Mishra. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Farmers are committing suicides. Madam, 127 farmers have already died by committing suicides.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I allowed enough time for Members from Kerala. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: No financial help is forthcoming. Why is this discrimination? *(Interruptions)* In Kerala, 127 farmers have committed suicides.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Madam,... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Please be sympathetic towards the plight of farmers of Kerala. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: As far as the calamity relief for Kerala is concerned, there is the Calamity Relief Fund which every State gets, every year for calamity relief. They get it every year. The Eleventh Finance Commission has mandated that. Secondly, if additional relief is needed, we are waiting for sectoral and district-wise requirements. That report has to come to us. Then, we will send a team and look at that report and discuss it with the State officials. Whatever is to be done would be done from the angle. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kalraj Mishra.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: What are you doing for farmers?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing more about Kerala. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Kalraj Mishra. *(Interruptions)* This unruly behaviour does not look nice on your part.

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर के दौरान इस बात की तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित किया कि इस बार का सूखा पिछले वर्षों की तुलना में बड़ा भयंकर सूखा था। लेकिन इसमें मैं केवल इतना कहना चाहता हूं कि कुछ क्षेत्र ऐसे हैं, कुछ प्रदेश ऐसे हैं या प्रदेशों में कुछ विशेष क्षेत्र ऐसे हैं जहां स्थायी तौर पर प्रति वर्ष सूखा पड़ता है। वहां के लोग ज्यादा परेशान होते हैं, मौतें भी होती हैं। ऐसे क्षेत्रों को चिन्हित करके उनके लिए क्या कोई विशेष टास्क फोर्स बनी है? उनकी व्यवस्था ठीक से हो सके क्या ऐसी कोई बात की गयी है?

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Madam, yesterday, I participated in the debate. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Did Mr. Mishra speak yesterday? *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let me run the House. *(Interruptions)* Are you going to fight with the Chair?

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: I just wanted to know.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, please sit down. I have identified Mr. Pachouri.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदया, मैंने कल कुछ बिंदु उठाए थे। यद्यपि माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी की नीयत पर मुझे कोई शंका नहीं है, मैं केवल आपके जरिए गुजारिश करना चाहता हूं और वह, आज के प्रश्न से भी संबंधित है और माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर से भी संबंधित है।

जहां तक नेशल कैलामिटी फंड का प्रश्न है, तो जिन-जिन राज्यों से नेशनल कैलामिटी फंड से संबंधित रिपोर्टें आ गयी हैं–कितने समय के अंदर जो राशि मांगी गयी है उतनी राशी उपलब्ध करा देंगे? खास तौर से सेकेंड इंस्टालमेंट जो एनसीसीएफ के अंदर मध्य प्रदेश ने मांगा है वह जारी नहीं हुआ है।

दूसरा, 5 अगस्त, 2002 को कांग्रेस अध्यक्षा श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी ने प्रधान मंत्री जी को पत्र लिखा था जिसका उत्तर उन्होंने 4 सितम्बर को दिया है। लेकिन उत्तर में जिन बातों का उल्लेख किया है और श्रीमती सोनिया गांधी जी ने अपने पत्र में जो उल्लेख इंटर मिनिस्टीरियल क्राइसिस मैनेजमेंट ग्रुप का और आल पार्टी कमेटी आन ड्राउट मैनेजमेंट के लिए किया, उस संबंध में अभी तक कार्यवाही नहीं हुई है जब कि स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री जी ने स्वीकारा है कि उस विषय में बयान देंगे।

आखिरी बात मेरी यह है महोदया कि करीब 16 राज्यों में सूखे की स्थिति का जिक्र किया गया है। लेकिन जैसे कलराज मिश्र जी ने बताया, ऐसे राज्य जहां प्राय: प्रति वर्ष सूखा रहता है जिसमें राजस्थान है, उड़ीसा है, मध्य प्रदेश है, छत्तीसगढ़ है, कर्नाटक है, इन राज्यों ने कितना खाद्यान्न मांगा था और कितना उपलब्ध कराया गया? यह मैंने कल की बात में भी उल्लेख किया था। तो कितना उपलब्ध कराया गया और कितनी राशि मांगी थी, कितनी उपलब्ध करायी गयी? इस विषय में अभी नहीं, वह बाद में कृपया हमको सूचना दे दें तो बड़ी कृपा होगी।

आखिरी बात, चूंकि मैं मध्य प्रदेश से ताल्लुक रखता हूं, मध्य प्रदेश में 32 जिले भयंकर सूखे से प्रभावित हैं। पहले दो लाख टन खाद्यान्न उन्होंने मांगा था, लेकिन एक लाख टन दिया गया। उसके बाद पांच लाख टन का और उन्होंने कहा है। इससे पहले प्रश्नकाल में इनके राज्यमंत्री ने यह कहा कि जो राज्य जितना खाद्यान्न मांगेंगे उतना

खाद्यान्न उनको उपलब्ध करायेंगे, तो क्या माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात का आश्वासन देंगे और जितना पैसा इन राज्यों अर्थात् छत्तीसगढ़, कर्णाटक, मध्य प्रदेश, राजस्थान और उत्तरांचल राज्यों ने मांगा है, उतना उपलब्ध करायेंगे? थैंक यू, मैडम।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You don't have to repeat. Mr. Pachouri, don't repeat. See, the thing is, if you want the reply to be proper, don't repeat your questions. You can make it shorter, If you do that more Members can put more questions. अब आपका क्या सवाल है? ...(व्यवधान) आप बाद में इकट्ठा जवाब दे दीजिएगा ...(व्यवधान)

श्री अजीत सिंह : मैडम चेयरपर्सन, पहली बात जो इन्होंने कही कि ऑल पार्टी मीटिंग बुलाने की बात जो सोनिया जी ने रखी थी, वह अपनी पार्टी के चीफ मिनिस्टर्ज के साथ प्रधान मंत्री से मिली थीं। उसमें और मंत्री भी मौजूद थे। हमने कृषि मंत्रियों की मीटिंग 24 जुलाई को बुलाई थी। आजकल तो आप सब राज्यों के मंत्रियों की मीटिंग बुला लीजिए तो वह ऑल पार्टी मीटिंग हो ही जाती है क्योंकि सब पार्टियों का राज किसी न किसी राज्य में चल ही रहा है तो वह ऑल पार्टी मीटिंग बुलाई गई थी और जैसा मैंने कहा कि हमने मुख्य मंत्रियों को लिखा भी था कि आप स्टेट में आल पार्टीज कमेटीज बना लीजिए। जहां तक सैकंड इन्स्टालमेंट की बात है, वह मध्य प्रदेश को 5 अगस्त को रिलीज कर दी गई थी। खाद्यान्न की बात कही गई, तो 16 अगस्त को हमको सिर्फ दो स्टेट्स, राजस्थान और उड़ीसा की एडीशनल रेक्वायरमेंट्स मिली थीं। उन्होंने जितना मांगा था उतना दे दिया है। मैं जानता हूं कि मध्य प्रदेश तैयारी कर रहा है। लैटर बना रहे हैं। रेक्वायरमेंट ढूंढ रहे हैं, लिफ्टिंग की फिगर्ज देख रहे हैं, सर्टीफिकेट्स तैयार कर रहे हैं, जैसे ही उनकी या और स्टेट्स की रेक्वेस्ट मिलेगी या स्टॉक फोर्स सैल से मिलेगी और उस पर बिल्कुल मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि सहानुभूतिपूर्वक विचार होगा। कलराज मिश्र जी ने स्थायी उपायों के लिए कहा है। एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री की बहुत सी ऐसी स्कीम्ज हैं जो कि इस बारे में हैं। जहां सैलाइन लैंड है, जैसे उत्तर प्रदेश में है तो उसके लिए अलग है और जो उन्होंने राजस्थान का सवाल उठाया और कई एरियाज का यह क्रॉप इंशोरेंस स्कीम मेरा मानना है कि कम से कम ऐसी स्टेट्स में जहां क्रॉप फेल होने का काफी चांस है उनको इसका फायदा उठाना चाहिए था। इसका फायदा उड़ीसा ने उठाया है, आन्ध्र ने उठाया है, गुजरात ने उठाया है। राजस्थान में पिछले चार साल में तीन बार सूखा पड़ा है। अगर वह इस स्कीम को इम्प्लीमेंट कर देता तो मेरा विश्वास है कि वहां इतनी समस्या नहीं होने वाली थी। मैं फिर से कहना चाहूंगा कि क्रॉप इंशोरेंस स्कीम में कमियां हैं। उसमें बहुत इंप्रूवमेंट की जरूरत है और हम धीरे-धीरे कर रहे हैं। लेकिन वह एक ऐसी स्कीम

है जिसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन करना उन स्टेट्स के लिए ज्यादा आवश्यक हैं जहां रिस्क ज्यादा है।

उपसभापति : श्री सी॰ रामचन्द्रैया।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: मैडम, आपकी दृष्टि रहनी चाहिए। ...(**व्यवधान**)

उपसभापति : मैं लाइन से इधर आ रही हूं। पहले यह हो जाएं ...(**व्यवधान**)

एक माननीय सदस्य : अभी कंटीन्यू कर रहे हैं, मैडम? ...(**व्यवधान**)

उपसभापति : नहीं अभी खत्म हो जाएगा। दो लोग हैं, फिर खत्म हो जाएगा। ...(**व्यवधान**) अभी आप बीच में दखल न दें। चुपचाप बैठे रहें, काम हो रहा है, तो हो जाने दीजिए। ...(**व्यवधान**) मंत्री जी बीमारी में भी यहां आए हैं। उनकी महत्ता को समझिए। उनको कितनी तकलीफ है। उसके बावजूद वह यहां आ कर बोल रहे हैं और जवाब दे रहे हैं। He is sincere about it. He was not to come...*(Interruptions)*... Just keep quite.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh) : Madam, except summing up of the deliberations, nothing concrete from the Government has come before and there are no concerete proposals put-forth by the Government. The hon. Minister has referred only two aspects.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No *tippani.* You ask what has not been answered.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: That is what I am asking, Madam, I had also raised this in my speech yesterday. We requested the Government of India to initiate measures, so that farmers can take up rotation of crops. His reply is that the people are not eating coarse cereals. So, what has been the effort of the Government to motivate the people to change their food habits. That is the only alternative. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would not like him to interfere in my food habits.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: No, Madam, it is not like that. It is a question which has wider ramifications. Secondly, I would like to reiterate that not even a single pie has been given to the State of Andhra Pradesh for the purpose of drinking water. Would the Government consider this demand? *(Interruptions)* Why do you worry about Andhra Pradesh? *(Interruptions)* We are here to represent our State. *(Interruptions)* We are here to represent our State. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I see the fight between the States.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Madam Chairperson, the eating habits are changing. If you look at the pattern over the last ten years or so, the grain consumption has gone down, and the consumption of fruits, vegetables are going up. If I start with the hon. Members of the Rajya Sabha to change their eating habits, I don't think they would like it.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Then, we will be flooded with rice and wheat in godowns.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: No, that is a different question. Diversification is an important issue. We do have that in mind. We do recognize that cropping pattern has to be changed and has to be diversified. But that has nothing to do with eating habits.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Surely, the Chair is not going to oblige you, so far as eating habits are concerned. Whatever I eat, is my right.

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक : मैडम, मेरा प्रश्न इस बात पर आधारित है कि हमारे देश में हर साल ही किन्हीं क्षेत्रों में सूखा आता है और किन्हीं क्षेत्रों में वर्षा अधिक होती है। यह हमारे देश का क्रम है। यहां के मानसून की स्थिति ऐसी है। अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी कहा है कि यहां जल-प्रबंधन की हम व्यवस्था करेंगे, लेकिन इस मामले में माननीय मंत्री जी ने यह नहीं बताया कि हमारे देश में जो 6 लाख तालाब थे, जो सूख चुके हैं, जिन को पट्टे कर दिए गए हैं और जिन पर खेती हो रही है, क्या उन्हें खोदने की व्यवस्था सरकार करेगी? दूसरे, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि जल एक संपदा है, राष्ट्रीय संपत्ति है, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि जल संपदा को राष्ट्रीय संपदा घोषित कर क्या उस के नियमन् की व्यवस्था करेंगे?

श्री अजीत सिंह : मैडम, यह घोषणा केन्द्र नहीं कर सकता है। यह स्टेट का सब्जैक्ट है। हमारे देश के कांस्टीट्यूशन के हिसाब से यह चीजें स्टेट्स के साथ ली जा सकती हैं। ये सवाल एन०डी०सी० की बैठक में उठाए जा सकते हैं, लेकिन केन्द्र अपनी तरफ से घोषणा कर दे कि जल आज राष्ट्रीय संपदा हो गयी और कर्नाटक व तमिलनाडु के विवाद को हम यहां बैठकर तय करेंगे तो यह नहीं होने वाला है।...(व्यवधान)... मैंने कहा कि आज और कल लोकसभा में और यहां जो बहस हुई है उस में ऐसे बहुत से सवाल उठे हैं एक पब्लिक ओपीनियन बन रहा है कि जल एक राष्ट्रीय संपत्ति होनी चाहिए, लेकिन उस की घोषणा करने का अधिकार केन्द्र को नहीं है। इसके लिए एन०डी०सी० एक प्रॉपर फोरम है और उस में यह सवाल उठाया जा सकता है। दूसरे फोरम्स में भी उठाया जा सकता है, लेकिन यह सब महसूस कर रहे हैं कि पानी की समस्या खाली ड्राउट की नहीं है। यह समस्या आने वाली है। इसलिए इस बारे में विचार होना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभापति : नेशनल रिवर ग्रिड...(व्यवधान)...

श्री अजीत सिंह : मैडम, गवर्नमेंट की बहुत सी स्कीम्स हैं कि रेन-फेड एरियाज में पानी का संरक्षण व प्रबंधन कैसे किया जाए, लेकिन जो तालाबों के कब्जे की बात है तो उस का हिसाब-किताब तो प्रदेश ही रखते हैं। हां, जो सरकार की योजना है, उसकी जानकारी माननीय सदस्य जब चाहेंगे, मैं उन्हें दे दूंगा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, I have before me the ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Madam, I raised the issue of problems being faced by agricultural labourers yesterday also. ...*(Interruptions)*...There is no Food-for-Work Programme for them. ...*(Interruptions)*... This is also related to agricultural labourers. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Madam, basically, the Food-for-Work Scheme is for those people. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is responding to your questions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT SINGH : Madam, Deputy Chairman, the Food-for-Work Programme ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Just now he said that he has reduced prices. (*Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *(Interruptions)* He is responding to your question, but you don't want to hear. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, this is the last question, and then, I will finish this discussion. *(Interruptions)*. No, I am sorry, I did not recognize you. (*Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The Food-for-Work Programme is there for those people in the rural areas, whose crops have withered away and who have not got any work during drought. *(Interruptions)* It is a continuing process.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, this discussion is over. If there are any unanswered questions, the Members can write to the hon. Minister; he will reply to them. You can put questions in the form of Special Mentions also. Now, we will take up Special Mentions. We have got only ten minutes. *(Interruptions)* Before that, we can take up the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002 also. This Bill has already been passed by this House. It was sent to the Lok Sabha, which made certain amendments in it. It is a very simple Bill. Since the hon. Minister is present here, if the House so agree, we can pass it.

GOVERNMENT—BILL

The Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTIONS (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): Sir, I beg to move:

That the following Amendments made by the Lok Sabha in the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Bill, 2002, be taken into consideration, namely:—

CLAUSE 8

That at Page 5 for *line* 40, the following be *substituted,* namely:—